

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/653,664	BROWN, STEPHEN J.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
Ronald Laneau		3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 9/11/06.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-45 now renumbered as 1-34.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

*Ronald Laneau*

Ronald Laneau  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 3714

11/25/06

**Reasons for Allowance**

1. Claims 12-45 are allowed now renumbered as 1-34.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the references, either singularly or in combination, disclose the totality of combined elements such as:

As per claims 12-16, a method of conducting an on-line bidding session, comprising: receiving bids from a plurality of remote computers; determining a respective bidding group's total bid by accumulating the bids received from bidders included in the respective bidding group's list of associated bidders; and storing the determined total bid in the database.

As per claims 17-30, a method of conducting an auction comprising: associating each bid with the one of the plurality of bidding groups corresponding to the respective bid designation; declaring a winning bidding group for the auction from the plurality of bidding groups based upon the bids associated with each bidding group.

As per claims 31-45, a method of conducting an auction comprising: contributing a respective bid amount in each bid to at least one total bid amount corresponding to at least one of the plurality of bidding groups; declaring a winning bidding group from the plurality of bidding groups; and notifying the bidders that the winning bidding group has been declared.

The closest prior arts, Shemesh (US 6,847,939 B1) and Lee (US 5,243,515), fail to disclose the above claimed features.

Shemesh discloses a system for conducting on-line auctions comprising a database server system being for storing and providing on demand, information pertaining to a plurality of

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products to be auctioned, the database server system further being for receiving a number of bids on a product of the plurality of products when the product is auctioned, the number of bids received being for determining a quantity of the product auctioned.

Lee discloses an improved system and apparatus for conducting secret bidding procedures. The apparatus provides for the reception of bidding data for a particular division of a particular job. The bid information is collected until a preset date when the system automatically transmits a bid report detailing the bidders and their associated bids to each bid recipient.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Laneau whose telephone number is (571) 272-6784. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 - 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Art Unit 3714

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